Montana Department of Military Affairs Disaster & Emergency Services Division State Emergency Coordination Center

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Situation Report for August 25, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

Wildfires of 2003

Attention * - New information shown in today's report displayed in **Bold Italics** type.

I. **Background Information:**

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

II. <u>Current Montana Fire Situation</u>: August 24, 2003 (2245)

A. <u>Large Fires</u> Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5 National Preparedness Level = 5

Area Command (Mann) is managing the following large fires:

- 1. Blackfoot Lake Complex Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) 1,887 acres, 0% contained, 19 miles E of Kalispell, 363 personnel assigned.
- 2. Ball Creek 180 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles E of Bigfork, 31 personnel assigned.
- 3. Wedge Canyon Type 2 Incident Management Team (Paul) 42,000 acres, 62% contained, 42 miles N of Columbia Falls, 378 personnel assigned.
- 4. Middle Fork Complex Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) 954 acres, 0% contained, 5 miles E of West Glacier.
- 5. Robert Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) 44,911 acres, 60% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls, 619 personnel assigned.
- 6. Trapper Creek Complex 25,590 acres, 65% contained, 45 statute miles NE of Kalispell, 22 personnel assigned.
- 7. Crazy Horse Type 1 Incident Management Team (Vail) 10,160 acres, 30% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius, 561 personnel assigned. High Type 2 Incident Management Team (Weldon) 120 acres, 0% contained, 23 miles NE of Seeley Lake.
- 8. Little Salmon Creek Complex Fire Use Management Team (Rath) -31,647 acre complex is located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, 74 personnel assigned.

Central Montana Area Command (Rounsaville) is managing the following fires:

- 1. Lincoln Complex Type 1 Incident Management Team (Studebaker) 33,252 acres, 25% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln, 688 personnel assigned.
- 2. Winslow Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kearney) 13,000 acres, 35% contained, 5 miles SW of Lakeview, 328 personnel assigned.
- 3. East Complex Type 2 Incident Management Team (Gardner) 20,890 acres, 35% contained, 10 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, Yellowstone National Park, 722 personnel assigned.
- 4. Rough Draw Complex Type 1 Incident Management Team (Oltrogge) 2,890 acres, 50% contained, 5 miles S of Livingston, 384 personnel assigned.
- 5. Cathedral Peak Type 1 Incident Management Team (Humphrey) 1,820 acres, 2% contained, 10 miles S of Nye, 210 personnel assigned.
- 6. Burnt Ridge Sheep Camp Complex Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hendricks) 1,725 acres, 58% contained, 12 miles SE of Neihart, 542 personnel assigned.

Missoula Area Command (Ribar) is managing the following fires:

- 1. Cherry Creek Complex Type 2 Incident Management Team (Dietrich) 4,088 acres, 80% contained, 12 miles SE of Thompson Falls, 445 personnel assigned.
- 2. Boles Meadow Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hoff) 4,468 acres, 100% contained, 25 miles NE of Missoula, 690 personnel assigned.
- 3. Mineral/Primm Type 1 Incident Management Team (Bennett) 16,100 acres, 45% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula, 814 personnel assigned.
- 4. Fish Creek Complex Type 2 Incident Management Team (Benes) 28,000 acres, 15% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula, 833 personnel assigned.
- 5. Black Mountain 2 Type 1 Incident Management Team (Gelobter) 7,023 acres, 75% contained, 9 miles W of Missoula, 1050 personnel assigned.
- 6. Cooney Ridge Type 2 Incident Management Team (Sandman) 22,310 acres, 40% contained, 11 miles E of Florence, 997 personnel assigned.
- 7. Gold 1 Type 2 Incident Management Team (Philbin) 8,296 acres, 40% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis, 494 personnel assigned.

Central Montana Area Command (Greenhoe) is managing the following fires:

- 1. Mollman 158 acres, 10% contained, 5 miles SE of Ronan, 6 personnel assigned..
- 2. Rathbone 157 acres, 75% contained, 17 miles N of West Yellowstone, 97 personnel assigned.
- 3. Hay Field 1,171 acres, 100% controlled, 11 miles SW of White Sulpher Springs, 41 personnel assigned.
- B. Initial Attack *Minimal initial attack 9 new fires 13,184 acres*
- C. <u>State Forecast For Montana</u>

STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT 430 AM MDT MON AUG 25 2003

WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

Today - Mostly Sunny. Highs 81 To 91.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy. Lows 43 To 53.

Tuesday - Mostly Sunny. Breezy In The Afternoon. Highs 81 To 91.

CENTRAL MONTANA

Today - Partly Cloudy. Highs In The Lower 80s To Lower 90s.

Tonight - Mostly Clear. Lows In The Mid 40s To Lower 50s.

Tuesday - Partly Cloudy. Highs In The Lower 80s To Mid 90s.

SOUTHWEST MONTANA

Today - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The Mid 70s To Mid 80s.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms.

Lows In The Lower To Mid 40s.

Tuesday - Partly Cloudy. Highs In The Mid 70s To Mid 80s.

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA

Today - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The 80s North. 90s South.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy With A Slight Chance Of Showers And

Thunderstorms Southwest. Mostly Clear Elsewhere. Lows In The 50s.

Tuesday - Partly Cloudy With A Slight Chance Of Showers And

Thunderstorms South. Mostly Sunny North. Highs 85 To 95.

III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:

The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:

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Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Lewis and Clark County	Emergency Declaration	8/15/03
Judith Basin County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Missoula County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03

IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:

State and National Guard Assistance:

Current Montana National Guard Resources

Montana Army Guard		EQUIPMENT	Montana Air Guard
NG SOLDIERS	AIRCRAFT MODULES	ARMY & AIR GUARD EQUIPMENT	NG AIRMEN
	3 UH-60S	51 HMMVs	
		3 HEMTTs (Fuelers)	
		41 1/4 TRAILER	
		8 M-35 2 ½ TON TRUCKS	
		5 M1009 TRUCK	
		2 HEMTT (Wrecker)	
		14 Pick Up	
		2 VANS	
		1 7-TON TRUCK	
		1 25' FLATBED TRAILER	
		1 SUV	
440 Soldiers Assigned	3 Aircraft Modules	92 HVY Equipment	159 Airmen Assigned

Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0700-1900 daily.
- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:

Northwest Area Command Missoula Area Command Central Command

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

V. <u>FEMA Grants</u>:

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- Lincoln Complex
- Flathead County Zone

VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:

For the latest fire restrictions:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm

For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates: http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp

For the latest closures and evacuations: http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations road closures